

248. *FULIGULA FERINA*, Linn.

The Pochard is not very common.

249. *NYROCA FERRUGINEA*, Gmel.

The White-eyed Pochard is very common.

250. *FULIGULA CRISTATA*, Leach.

The Crested Pochard occurs in small numbers on all the tanks.

251. *PODICEPS MINOR*, Gmel.

The Little Grebe is abundant on all the tanks, even on those which dry up during the hot season. They breed at the end of the rains.

252. *STERNA SEENA*, Sykes.

The Large River-Tern is not uncommon.

253. *STERNA MELANOGASTER*, Temm.

The Black-bellied Tern is common.

254. *PHALACROCORAX FUSCICOLLIS*, Steph.

The Lesser Cormorant is not very common.

255. *PHALACROCORAX PYGMEUS*, Pall.

The Little Cormorant is by no means abundant, and appears to be very locally distributed.

256. *PLOTUS MELANOGASTER*, Penn.

The Indian Snake-bird is common, and is very generally distributed over the whole district.

XIII.—*Notes on some Eastern Owls.*

By J. H. GURNEY.

IN the interesting paper on the Birds of New Guinea contributed by Mr. Sharpe to the Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology), vol. xvii. (referred to in the present vol. of 'The Ibis,' p. 115), the author remarks (p. 407), under the head of *Ninox theomacha*, "until contrary evidence is adduced, I shall consider *N. theomacha* is the male and *N. goldiei* the female of the same species" I am desirous of submitting three items of "contrary evidence" which lead

me to hold that these two species are certainly distinct from each other.

1st. In 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 171, I gave the measurements of two males and one female of *Ninox theomacha*, these specimens having all been sexed by the collector, Mr. Bruijn, whose accuracy I have no reason to doubt.

2nd. In 'The Ibis,' 1883, p. 170, I gave the corresponding measurements of three specimens of *Ninox goldiei*, and my reasons for believing that these three birds consisted of two males and one female.

3rd. So far as I am aware, *N. goldiei* has only been met with in South-eastern New Guinea, whereas *N. theomacha* not only occurs in that locality but also in Northern New Guinea and in the islands of Jobie, Misol, and Waigiou.

I wish to take this opportunity of also referring to the geographical distribution of a nearly allied but more southern species, *Ninox maculata*. Mr. Sharpe, in his 'Catalogue of Striges,' gives the habitat of this Owl (p. 175) as "Van Diemen's Land" only; Mr. Gould, however, in both his works on the Birds of Australia, states that the species "also inhabits South Australia and New South Wales, but in far less numbers" than in Tasmania. I am now desirous of recording its existence in another locality. A specimen from Norfolk Island has for many years past been preserved in the Norwich Museum; and I have lately seen a second Norfolk-Island example, sent direct to my friend Mr. Crowfoot, of Beccles, to whose kindness I have been indebted for an opportunity of examining it. The label attached to this specimen bore the name of "More-pork," which may perhaps indicate that the cry of this species resembles that of *Ninox novæ-zealandiæ*, to which this name has, on account of its cry, been given in New Zealand. Mr. Crowfoot's correspondent in Norfolk Island informs him that he has not met with the nest of this species in that island.

The following particulars may be worthy of being here recorded respecting that rare little Ceylonese Owl *Scops minutus*. My friend Mr. Samuel Bligh, of Catton, Ceylon, in

sending me one of these Owls as a donation to the Norwich Museum, remarks that before the bird was skinned, the wings, when carefully closed, extended $\frac{3}{10}$ of an inch beyond the tail, whereas in the otherwise excellent figure of this species in Legge's 'Birds of Ceylon,' the tail is represented as extending beyond the wings. I may add that the coloration of that figure agrees admirably with the specimen (a female) now sent; but another skin previously obtained by Mr. Bligh in the same locality, and also preserved in the Norwich Museum, is in the rufous phase, the rufous tints of its plumage being very rich and bright.

XIV.—Notes on Woodpeckers.—No. X. On the Genus
Thriponax. By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

IN pursuance of my studies of the genera of Woodpeckers, I have recently worked out the species of the genus *Thriponax*, which embraces eight birds of large size, bearing some resemblance to the Great Black Woodpecker of Europe, *Dryocopus martius*. In these short essays which I send from time to time to 'The Ibis,' I have tried to remodel the arrangement of the species of Woodpeckers rather than to attempt a discussion of the characters of the various genera; and it may be that when I come to consider the latter portion of the subject in its entirety, I may have to make some alterations in the generic nomenclature employed. Considering therefore, for the present, that *Dryocopus* and *Thriponax* can be generically separated from each other, on account of the dense feathering of the tarsus in the former genus, it follows that *Dryocopus richardsi* of Tristram, from the island of Tzus Sima, is a *Thriponax*; and this is certainly one of the most interesting points determined in the present paper, as the locality lies so far outside the hitherto supposed range of the genus, which is almost characteristically Indian, as opposed to *Dryocopus*, which is essentially a Palearctic genus. I am now able to recognize eight species of *Thriponax*, an increase of six upon the number enumerated by Malherbe in